Plant	Capacity utilisation (%)			
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (April—Nov)
DSP	48.3	48.1	48.5	54.5
RSP	60.1	59.5	60.4	67.3
BSL	56.9	58.8	50.2	49.9

Reasons for low capacity utilisation at Bokaro and Rourkela Steel Plants are ageing of boilers, diversion of steam from Power Plant to meet the process requirements of steel plant and changed fuel scenario etc. Major renovation programmes have been undertaken in BSL and RSP to overcome these problems.

Major decisions taken at "The World Food Summit' in Rome

2505. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the major decisions of the World Food Summit in Rome;

(b) the steps India intends to take on the basis of those decisions; and

(c) the details of the Indian stand during the summit?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Indian delegation participated in the plenary meeting of the World Food Summit and urged Global coalition to promote agricultural development based on technologies which are eco-friendly. It urged industrialised countries to give up their restrictive policies on agricultural trade, encouraged production of primary agricultural commodities in developing countries through appropriate pricing incentives and summon political will to undertake joint action to eradicate hunger. To implement this a suggestion was also made to set up agencies at three levels, *viz.* global, regional and national levels charged with the specific responsibility to implement the Summit's Programme of Action. The Summit adopted what is called the Rome Declaration with specified objectives and programmes and Plan of Action.

Most of the programmes and the Plan of Action identified in the Rome Declaration are already an important part of the plans and policies pursued by various departments of the Government. Further discussions are taking place to evolve a suitable mechanism for implementing the Plan of Action and programmes incorporated in the Rome Declaration.

Reopening of sick industries in the North East

2506. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to reopen the sick industries in North East;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey recently about the sick industries of North East, particularly in Assam;

(c) if so, the latest position of Panchgram Paper Mill (HPC);

(d) the Government's thinking about it; and

(e) reasons for the Badarpur Textile Industry (Assam) being not made operative?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted

by the banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest RBI data available, the number of sick industrial units in the SSI and Non-SSI Sector in the North Eastern states are 23672 and 38, respectively. Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units. Some of the important steps are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited has set up an integrated pulp and paper mill with capacity of one lakh ton per annum at Panchgram, Hailakandi District, Assam (Cachar Paper Mill). The unit went into commercial production in 1988 and is making operating profit (excluding interest on Government loan and depreciation). Action has been taken by Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited to improve the efficiency in areas of pulp mills, recovery section, paper machine and increase in capacity utilisation. The proposal for financial restructuring of HPC has been approved by the Government.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

steps taken by Government for revival of sick industrial units

The Government has enacted a comprehensive legislation namely 'The Sick Industrial Companies (special Provisions) Act, 1985'. A quasi-judicial body designated as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)' has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of the sick industrial companies in an effective manner, which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987.

(2) The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.

(3) Commercial banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units.

(4) The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of sick but potentially viable units without reference to RBI both in the large and small scale sector.

(5) Revival of sick industrial units is also facilitated by amalgamation / merger of sick units with healthy units. Tax benefits are given under Section 72 (A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to the healthy company for revival of the amalgamating sick unit.

(6) Government has set up the National Renewal Fund which would inter-alia, provide for payment of compensation to workers affected by industrial restructuring.

(7) On the advice of the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India has set up State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) in all States under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Industries Department of the concerned State Government for working out a rehabilitation package for revival of sick but viable small scale units.

(8) Financial assistance in the form of long term equity type assistance upto Rs. 2,50,000/- to units with a project cost not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs at a nominal service charge of one per cent per annum is also available to potentially viable but sick small scale industrial units from the National Equity Fund set up in August, 1987.

(9) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been established to function as an Apex Bank for tiny and small scale industries.